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Love Devoid

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Love Devoid

Staci M. Harper

So Pavlov,
are you happy?
Since you
took away
the bell,
my appetite
has never been
the same.
The doorbell,
the telephone,
stimuli
of false hope,
start reactions,
but the truth
is never
served.

I was wary
to succumb to
your persuasion
waiting to be convinced
you were above
inflicting pain
to gain
perspective.
I gave in
reluctantly
to promises you
would never hurt
me.

True to your word,
you never laid
a hand
on me,
but watched as I
passed your test, I
did your will, I

brought you fame, I
gave you
all I had.
You gave me
a stream
of shame,
a series
of stimuli,
a fear of
reaction.

I can't
eat,
Pavlov,
and you don't
care.